

Record

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SBC endorses ethnic diversity report

PHOENIX (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) messengers meeting in Phoenix on June 14-15 adopted an historic report encouraging ethnic diversity, witnessed dozens of leaders standing together in support of a landmark unity pledge, and saw hundreds of pastors and laypeople volunteer to lead their churches to embrace one of the world's 3,800 unengaged people groups.

It was the lowest-attended annual meeting in 67 years, with just over 4,800 in attendance, but the substance of the meeting led plenty who attended to argue it shouldn't be judged on numbers.

"I do believe it could prove to be the most spiritually significant convention over the last 50 years," Southern Baptist Convention President Bryant Wright, who was re-elected to another one-year term, told Baptist Press after the Phoenix gathering.

Wright, senior pastor of Johnson Ferry Church in Marietta, Ga., pointed to the sluggish economy and to the travel time from most SBC churches as possible reasons for the low attendance.

From beginning to end, messengers heard biblical pleas for Southern Baptists to join the church planting movement in North America and to adopt an unengaged people group around the world — and messengers responded.

More than 1,000 pastors and their wives packed a North American Mission Board (NAMB) luncheon to learn about the entity's new Send North America church planting strategy. On the final night of the convention, hundreds of messengers flooded the front of the convention hall at the end of the International Mission Board (IMB) report, having signed cards pledging to lead their church to embrace an unengaged people group. An IMB representative will contact them later.

Each mission board report also featured a commissioning service, with Southern Baptists meeting their newest missionaries.

"Coming back to the authority of Scripture was a correcting point that had



IN SESSION — Messengers at the 158th Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting on June 14-15 in Phoenix, Az., listen to the LifeWay report during the Tuesday morning session at the Phoenix Convention Center. More than 4,800 messengers registered for the event, the lowest messenger total in nearly seven decades. (BP photo)

to take place [in the SBC], but the mission is to fulfill the Great Commission," Wright said. "I think this was the most unified convention around the Great Commission that I have experienced. People came here with anticipation of that unity."

Wright practiced that unity during his press conference, inviting the presidents of NAMB, Kevin Ezell; IMB, Tom Elliff; and the Executive Committee, Frank Page, to sit on the platform with him and participate. It was the first convention as president for all four men, and each one had a unique emphasis during his respective report to messengers.

Ezell highlighted church planting and Elliff emphasized the unengaged, while Page introduced an Affirmation of Unity and Cooperation pledge that was signed by entity leaders, state executives, and ethnic fellowship leaders. The document has five core points, with the heart of it a pledge to "walk in unity as brothers and sisters in Christ."

During the Executive Committee report, the leaders stood on stage together. "Our convention is fracturing into various groups, some theological, most methodological," Page told messengers. "Sometimes there is an honest difference of opinion, but often there is self-centeredness that frequently mirrors our own culture. Christ-like selflessness is our only hope."

Page also urged Southern Baptists to take the "1 Percent Challenge," leading their

church to increase gifts to the Cooperative Program by one percent of budget. Doing so would lead to \$100 million more for Southern Baptist ministries and worldwide missions, including funding for 380 more IMB missionaries, Page said.

The Executive Committee's landmark report on ethnic diversity was the focus of national media attention, as was the election of New Orleans pastor Fred Luter to SBC first vice president. He is the first African American to hold that post.

The report's language encourages the SBC president, when he makes his various appointments, to "give special attention to appointing individuals who represent the diversity within the Convention, and particularly ethnic diversity." It also encourages the committee in charge of the annual meeting to reflect the ethnic diversity of the convention in the meeting program.

A motion that would have struck the ethnic diversity language was defeated by a margin of three to one. The Executive Committee report, delivered after a two-year study, cites the "need to be proactive and intentional in the inclusion of individuals from all ethnical and racial identities within Southern Baptist life."

During a press conference, messenger Paul Kim, who made the 2009 motion that led to the report, urged ethnic Southern Baptists to get more involved in the convention in this "history-making moment," saying, "This is the time."

Ethnic diversity, Wright told BP, is "vital to the future of the church in America. We have not reflected what is



CHECKING OUT EXHIBITS — Messengers and guests attending the two-day Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting on June 14 in Phoenix, Az., visit various booths in the exhibit hall of the Phoenix Convention Center. The merged panoramic photograph shows a variety of SBC entities that offer literature and information in the exhibit hall. (BP photo)

Continued on page 2

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SBC annual meeting (continued from page 1)

happening in America in both the makeup of our churches but especially in the leadership in our convention."

The convention's resolutions, which express the sentiment of messengers on often hot-button theological and cultural issues, once again made news. In a surprising move in the convention's final session, messengers overruled the Resolutions Committee by at least a two to one margin and voted to consider a resolution promoted by messenger Tim Overton that is highly critical of the NIV 2011 Bible translation.

The resolution passed nearly unanimously. The resolution's text says that because of "inaccurate gender language," messengers "cannot commend the 2011 NIV to Southern Baptists or the larger Christian community." It "respectfully request[s] that LifeWay" not sell the new NIV in its retail chain.

Messengers also passed resolutions:

- supporting the Defense of Marriage Act.
- affirming the historical, biblical concept of hell in a resolution that mentions Rob Bell's book, *Love Wins*.
- condemning the actions of those who protest funerals, burn the Koran, and pray for the deaths of public officials.

A resolution on immigration and the Gospel, coming at a convention partially focused on ethnic issues, had the most floor debate. By a four to one margin, messengers adopted the resolution which includes key language asking "our governing authorities to implement, with the borders secured, a just and compassionate path to legal status, with appropriate restitutionary measures, for those undocumented immigrants already living in our country."

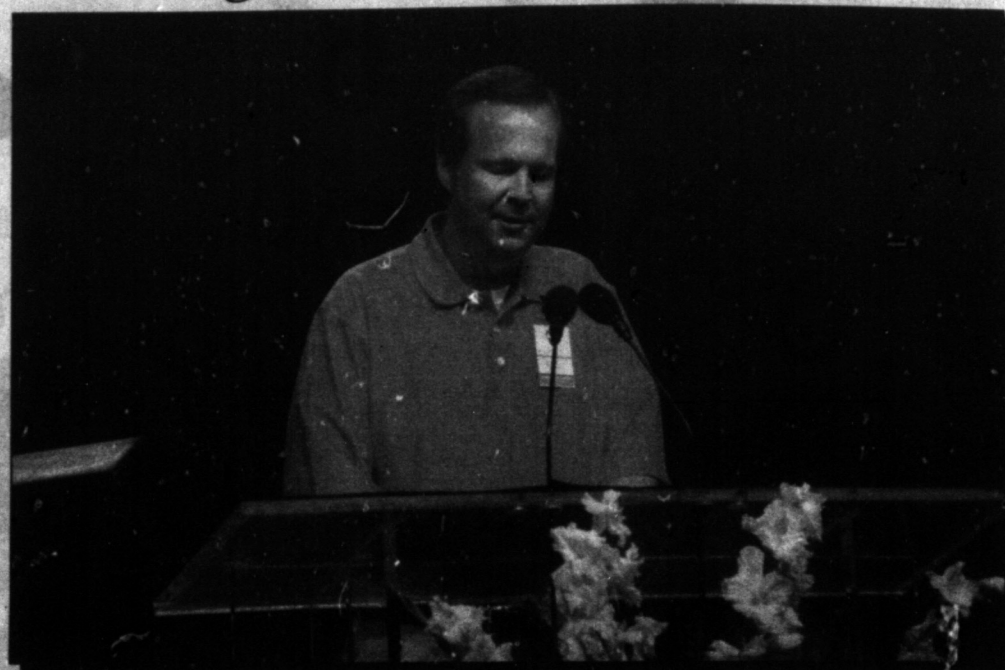
That sentence was nearly struck but survived on a ballot vote, 51%-48%. The resolution gained more support when the Resolutions Committee proposed adding a sentence that says the resolution "is not to be construed as support for amnesty for any undocumented immigrant."

Mostly overlooked in the controversy was the rest of the 22-paragraph resolution, which calls on churches to take the Gospel to all people, "regardless of country of origin or immigration status."

The main focus of the convention was on fulfilling the Great Commission both in North America and around the world.

"With less than four percent of our [Southern Baptist] churches directly engaged in church planting, we've got to do better," Ezell said at the NAMB luncheon. "We must do better. We are going to do better."

Churches and not NAMB plant churches, Ezell emphasized, adding that over the next couple of years, NAMB will



IN CLOSING — Stan Buckley, senior pastor of First Church, Jackson, offers the closing prayer at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 14-15 in Phoenix, Arizona. Buckley is vice-chair of the SBC Committee on Order of Business. (Photo by Tony Martin)

develop church-planting coalitions in 25 urban areas around North America. He said the coalitions will be made up of local pastors, church planters, representatives of local state conventions and associations, along with partnering pastors and state convention leaders from elsewhere. The coalitions will develop local strategies for planting new churches in their area.

"It's a new day," Ezell said. "It really is. Pastor, we're not going to make it harder for you. Associations and states, we're not [going to make it harder on you either]. We're going to make it easier. We're going to make it easier for you to engage in missions and to pray and partner. We can do this together."

Birmingham, AL, pastor David Platt preached the convention sermon, quoting statistics on the world's unreached and telling messengers, "This is not a problem for the International Mission Board to address. This is a problem for every pastor and every local church to address."

Other convention speakers, including several during the Pastors' Conference and Wright himself during his sermon, made a similar point.

IMB President Elliff, in his report, spotlighted the need to embrace unengaged people groups but said, "This convention has been one long sermon... There is not one thing I could say that messengers have not already heard. A lost world, Elliff said, needs churches who consider it unacceptable that there are people groups 'who do not have somebody deliberately' trying to engage them with the Gospel."

"Really, all there's left for me to do is to give the invitation," Elliff said, moments before hundreds of messengers came forward holding cards that said, "I will lead my church to embrace an unengaged, unreached people group."

The Affirmation of Unity and Cooperation pledge, signed at the Executive Committee meeting June 13 and presented to messengers the next day, includes five key pledges. In summary, the pledges are:

- "We pledge to maintain a relationship of mutual trust..."
- "We pledge to attribute the highest motives to those engaged in local church ministries and those engaged in denominational service in any level of Convention life..."
- "We pledge to affirm the value of cooperative ministry as the most effective and efficient means of reaching a lost world..."
- "We pledge to embrace our brothers and sisters of every ethnicity, race, and language as equal partners in our collective ministries to engage all people groups with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."
- "We pledge to continue to honor and affirm proportional giving through the Cooperative Program as the most effective means of mobilizing our churches and extending our outreach as Southern Baptists..."

In other matters:

- More than 1,100 Arizonans made professions for Christ during the pre-convention Crossover 2011 evangelistic effort.
- Paul Thompson, one of the 10 Baptists held in a Haiti jail in 2010, appeared before messengers during the Executive

Committee report, telling them, "I have never been so proud to be a Southern Baptist as I was in the 19 days in a lonely but yet God-filled prison cell in Haiti."

Ezell promised that, under his watch, future financial stewardship at NAMB will demand "accuracy, transparency, effectiveness and efficiency — not smoke and mirrors."

He then clarified and put into perspective some oft-quoted NAMB statistics. For instance, he said that Southern Baptists planted 769 new churches in 2010, not the 1,400 to 1,500 a year usually reported in the past.

"When the old NAMB counted church plants, they didn't ask for church names or addresses or planter names. The new NAMB is asking and only counting churches for which those details can be obtained," he said.

Ezell generated laughs and applause when he said, "If Walmart can track how much toilet paper it sells every hour, we should be able to track how many churches are planted each year."

Bryant Wright was re-elected president over Wiley Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, Ca., who nominated himself.

Luter, senior pastor of Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans, was elected first vice president over Rick Ong, a member of First Chinese Church in Phoenix. Luter received 1,558 (77%) votes to Ong's 441 (22%).

Eric Thomas, senior pastor of First Church in Norfolk, Va., and former pastor of First Church, Vicksburg, was elected without opposition as second vice president.

Messengers pass immigration resolution

PHOENIX (BP) — Messengers addressed the thorny issue of immigration by adopting a resolution that sought to promote the gospel of Jesus while calling for justice and compassion, during the 2011 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention on June 14-15 in Phoenix, Az.

The resolution on immigration was one of eight approved either unanimously or overwhelmingly during the morning and afternoon sessions on June 15. The immigration resolution, adopted by what appeared to be about 70% - 80% of the messengers, urged Southern Baptist churches to proclaim Christ and minister in His spirit to everyone, regardless of their "immigration status."

The resolution further states, "(A)ny form of nativism, mistreatment, or exploitation is inconsistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

The measure called for the government to make a priority of border security and holding businesses accountable in their hiring. It also requested public officials "to implement, with the borders secured, a just and compassionate path to legal status, with appropriate restitutionary measures, for those undocumented immigrants already living in our country."

The resolution's paragraph on instituting a process for illegal immigrants to gain legal status after the securing of the borders and with restitution elicited an amendment that produced the most floor debate during the resolutions report.

Final action on the resolution was delayed from the morning to afternoon session when the vote on the amendment was too close to call and required a ballot vote.



CASTING VOTES — Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting on June 14-15 at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Az., vote in a show of ballots during the morning session on June 14. (BP photo)

Richard Huff, a messenger from Corona de Tucson Church in Tucson, Az., introduced the amendment, which would have deleted the paragraph in question. In support of his amendment, Huff said from the floor, "[T]he principle is that citizenship is a right of people that are here under legal processes, and you do not want to make this something you are rewarding people who are in violation of the law and they have no interest in being here legally."

Paul Jimenez, chairman of the SBC Resolutions Committee and pastor of Taylors First Church in Taylors, S.C., urged messengers to defeat the amendment. He said the com-

mittee members think the resolution is "a realistic and biblical approach to immigration" and removing the language affected by the amendment "would really weaken it in such a way that we would oppose it." Messengers barely defeated Huff's amendment, 766-723 (51.3% - 48.4%).

In the afternoon session, messengers handily rejected an amendment that would have basically gutted the same paragraph. They backed an amendment offered by the committee, however, that clarified the resolution was "not to be construed as support for amnesty for any undocumented immigrant."

In explaining the immigration resolution, Jimenez told messengers the committee's goal was that the measure "speak first and foremost to the pockets of lostness" in the United States. He said the resolution was built on a 2006 resolution but "moves us light years ahead when it comes to its Gospel-centeredness, as well as understanding how the culture itself is changing, and the culture itself is moving in such a way where immigrants in this

country are in desperate need of the Gospel and their numbers are growing and growing at an exponential rate."

Regarding the public policy aspect, he said the committee decided "to state those principles as broadly as possible."

"We can present the Gospel while at the same time upholding the law of the land," said Jimenez, who added that the resolution "is very strong; it is very balanced, leads with the Gospel but also takes into account our mandate to obey the laws of the land."

Richard Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, lauded the resolution at a news conference after the committee's final report, calling it "very statesman-like."

"This resolution upholds the rule of law," Land told reporters. "This resolution upholds the sovereignty of the United States, and this resolution seeks to deal compassionately and fairly and justly with those who are here in an undocumented status, and calls upon us to act as if this is a Gospel issue, which it is."

Looking back

10 years ago

Mississippi native James L. Sullivan receives the M.E. Dodd Award for support of the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program during the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans.

20 years ago

Speaking at the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta, convention president and native Mississippian Morris Chapman, pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., tells messengers the 12-year debate "over the nature of scripture has been settled."

50 years ago

Chester Swor, Mississippi College, has a new book available at the Baptist Book Store entitled *If We Dared*, priced at \$2.50.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BIBLIOPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004
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ZNK CUXRJ IGTUJ
NGZK EUA; HAZ SK OZ
NGZKZN, HKIGAYK O
ZKYOLE UL OZ, ZNGZ
ZNK CUXQY ZNKXKUL
GXX KBOR.

PUNT YKBKT: YKBKT

Clue: C = W

Have fun with cryptograms and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John One: Fifty-one

P-DAY

Recently, I visited some friends in an assisted living facility and we were going to their room to talk. As we got on the elevator a gentleman who was a resident there said, "Monday is June 6. Isn't that D-Day?" I said, "I think that you are correct." He responded, "I believe that was the Battle of Normandy." I said, "Yes sir it was." June 6, 1945, was absolutely one of the most incredible battles in American history, and literally one of the turning points not only in World War II but in world history. The valor of the soldiers, seamen, airmen, and Marines who were part of that invasion is almost indescribable. Their courage under fire and the heroic sacrificial acts during the battle did by description show not just one person making a difference, but thousands with an unwavering commitment to push forward for freedom and to stop the reign of hate and hurt. D-Day made a difference in our world and the stories will be told and retold, though the fullness of the stories may never totally be told.

The title of this commentary relates to something that may be as magnificent as the D-Day experience on June 6, 1945. I want to call it *P-Day: Standing for Prayer Day*, on June 30, 2011. We started out this year calling everyone to prayer in Covering Mississippi in Prayer. There were prayer events that were meaningful and powerful in our churches. We experienced prayer rallies all across our state in every nook, cranny, and county. Tens of thousands of people said they would pray every day, starting their day by Covering Mississippi in Prayer. On June 30 we will be halfway through the year. It is a great time to stop, reflect, and re-energize our prayer efforts. Allow me to suggest an "A-B-C" outline as we continue to Cover Mississippi in Prayer.

A - Attack

As it was on D-Day 1945, I want to encourage you to attack. Prayer is not only our communion with the Heavenly Father it is also an invasion of the territory of Satan. When the troops invaded the beaches of Normandy, it was not just an expression of military strategy — it was taking back territory from the enemy. Prayer unquestionably is the place of spiritual battlegrounds. Satan desires nothing less than the finest in every area of life. He wants to steal our children, corrupt our schools, maim our churches, and ruin our homes. Jesus told Simon Peter that Satan wanted to have him, to sift him as wheat, to rob and ruin him. Jesus said, "But I have prayed for you."



B - Broaden Your Prayer Life

I know that there are people who stop praying because they feel as though their prayers are just rote repetition or meaningless meanderings. It is not so. Let me encourage you to let God expand your prayer horizon. I have asked thousands of people to pray every morning starting with self, then praying for those who serve us in so many different areas, and third to pray for souls. If you are not careful you have a few names, a few issues, and a few directions that you can flip through in a few seconds time and be on your way. While that is not altogether bad, what might be better is to ask God to open up new areas of prayer concerns and thoughts. Just as a suggestion, ask God each day to show you one new thing that you need to be praying for in your own life. It may be a decision that you need to hold before the Lord, a habit that needs to be brought under His control, a bad attitude that seems to have wrapped itself around every thought that you have, or an opportunity for ministry that you have neglected. As you pray for servants, ask God to show you those special people that need to be held up in prayer by you. They may be serving in some position of leadership and authority. They may be out there on the front-

line of running for political office. It could be your pastor or it could be a neighboring pastor who is having a difficult time where he serves. There are thousands of servants around us. Let God extend your prayer influence as you touch them day by day. Let the Lord open the window of opportunity and let you see one of those servants and pray for them. Pray for souls. I was actually talking to someone the other day who said to me that this was a difficult thing for him because he did not know any lost people. In his circle of friends, family, church, and the corner of the community where he lived, there were not many people who did not have some expression of commitment to Christ. As we talked, this person began to realize that for sure he came in contact with people in stores, businesses, and people who even came to his home providing services, whether bringing the newspaper, mail, or responding to some call for services to his TV cable or watching for termite. The fact is he saw these people but was never thinking in terms of

whether they knew the Lord or not. It is so easy for us to get accustomed to the world around us and look at people and not see them. Allow God to broaden your prayer horizon.

C - Continue

Do not stop praying. In Luke 18:1, Jesus said, "Men are always to pray and not to give up, not to become discouraged." Keep on praying! As the thousands of troops invaded the beaches and shores of Normandy in France, one of the things that could not, must not happen was for them just to take the shoreline and stop there. Throughout the day, into the night, and in the days, weeks, and months ahead they pushed forward. Sometimes it was inch by inch and at great cost, but they continued. One of the greatest invasions in all of history would have been of little or no value if they had just stopped. They pressed on! Paul encouraged the believers of his day in saying, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Gal. 6:9). Don't stop! Day by day and even moment by moment the Lord opens His arms to us and welcomes us to prayer. Do not miss the meeting, the blessing, the comfort, the challenge, or the confidence we receive when we meet with our Lord. D-Day is a great day of memory and celebration. Make *P-Day*, June 30, 2011, a renewal of your focus and force in prayer as we continue to Cover Mississippi in Prayer.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 23, 2011

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.



Annual Missions Celebration

SPONSORED BY MISSISSIPPI WMU

Crossgates Baptist Church, Brandon
Friday and Saturday, August 12-13

» Celebration

The WMU Annual Meeting will be held during the Friday evening worship celebration held at Crossgates Baptist Church. This time will include missionary testimonies, creative theme interpretations, praise & worship music and more.

» Training

Conferences for associational WMU leaders, church missions leaders and women's ministry leaders will be offered on both Friday evening and Saturday morning. General missions/ministry conferences will be offered for all participants.

» Learn More

For more information about this event, contact Mississippi WMU at 800-748-1651, or go online to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Web site (www.mbc.org) for a schedule and conference list. Search under the event title or calendar date.



School Prayer Walk & Teacher Appreciation

Sunday, July 24, 2011

Sponsored by
Woman's Missionary Union
mbcb.org/mission_strategy/wmu/
& Student Ministry mbcb.org/youth_ministry/

Contact Lisa Miller: lmiller@mbcb.org, 601.292.3317

GROWING CHURCHES

Growing Churches Conference

Friday & Saturday, July 29 & 30, 2011

Harrisburg Baptist Church
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Online Training

for WMU Missions & Women's Ministry Leaders

Mississippi WMU is now offering online training for missions leaders.

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- How to Involve Your Church in Missions
- How to Involve Adults in Missions
- How to Involve Women in Women's Ministry
- How to Involve Students in Missions
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These online conferences are designed to train missions leaders in the local association and church to facilitate missions education and ministries as needed in their ministry environment.

To participate you must register online at:
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For more information about online training please contact
Tammy Anderson
in the Mississippi WMU office
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- Ministry

Skillshops

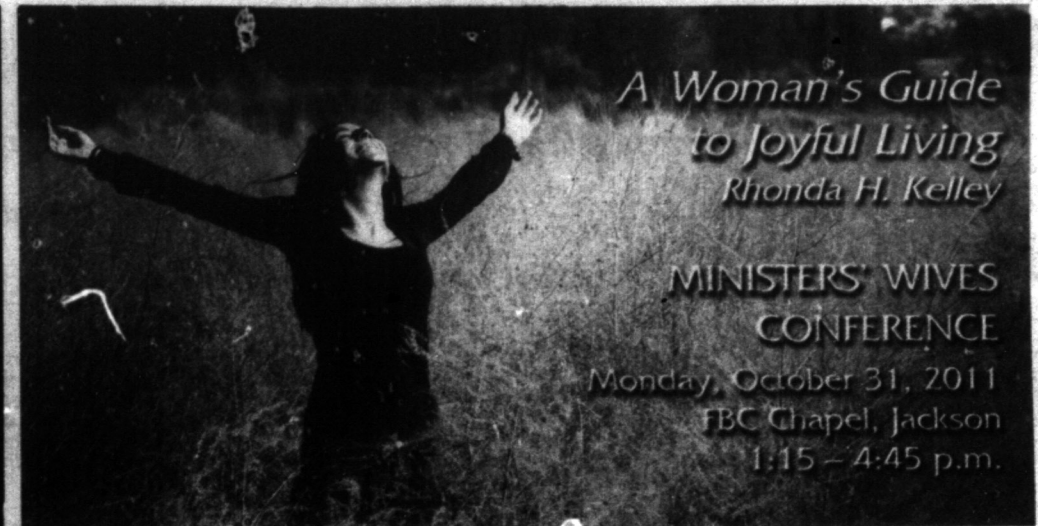
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A Woman's Guide
to Joyful Living
Rhonda H. Kelley

MINISTERS' WIVES
CONFERENCE

Monday, October 31, 2011
FBC Chapel, Jackson
1:15 - 4:45 p.m.



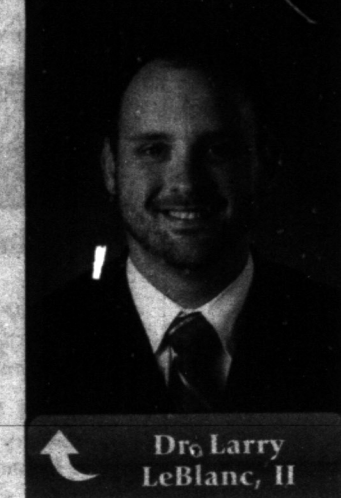
"Creating a Culture of Growth"

PASTORS' WORKSHOP

August 29,
2011

9 a.m.
to noon

Baptist
Building
Skyroom



Dr. Larry
LeBlanc, II

Larry LeBlanc believes in discipleship through leaders equipped according to their gifts, public worship that is Christ exalting, small groups that focus on relationship building, evangelism carried out in missions and community ministry, and church government carried out effectively.

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&
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Rev. Israel Cox

Israel Cox feels called to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus by sharing the timeless truths of the Bible in fresh, creative and practical ways. His greatest desire is to lead Crosspoint Church to be a lighthouse to the coast, and a safe place to bring unchurched friends and neighbors.

For more information contact Alan Woodward
601.292.3308, or awoodward@mbcb.org

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Undiscovered

Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great
and unsearchable things you do not know.

Jeremiah 33:3

Pray this day for...

"He told them: The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

Luke 10:2

Pray for a team of six from **FBC, Florence**, as they travel to Thailand to minister through English camps. June 26-July 7.

Pray for **Donald* and Teresa* Bo's**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for **Donald* and Donna* Brown**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Romania through church and home outreach, evangelism and church planting.

Pray for **Richard and Martha* Beal**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach and serving through financial administration.

Pray for our nation as America celebrates 235 years.

Pray for **David and Pamela* Carlton**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in South Africa through church and home outreach, evangelism, and theological education.

Pray for a team of eight from **NorthStar Church, Saltillo**, as they travel to the Philippines to minister through church planting and evangelism. June 28-July 12.

Pray for **Matthew* and Megan* Brewer**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Hungary through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for **Richard* and Wanda* Clark**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Romania through missions strategy coordination.

Pray for a team of nine from **Truitt Memorial BC, Pearl**, as they travel to minister in Vancouver. June 29-July 7.

Pray for **Kaye Brooks***, IMB missionary ministering to American Peoples in Chile through church planting.

Pray for **Guy* and Cindy* DeMars**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Senegal through church and home outreach, evangelism and hospitality coordination.

Pray for **David and Laurie* Bledsoe**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for **John and Claudia* Brown**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Malawi through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for a team of 18 from **Pearl River BA** as they travel to Ukraine to minister through medical missions and evangelism. July 14-23.

Pray for **Arnold* and Margie* Austin**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Peru through community church and home outreach and encounter evangelism.

Pray for a team of 10 from **FBC, Clinton**, as they travel to the Czech Republic to minister through sports and English camps. July 1-11.

Pray for a team of nine from **Overflow BC, Florence**, as they travel to Kenya to minister through evangelism. July 8-20.

Pray for a team of three from **Good Hope BC, Purvis**, as they travel to Belize to minister through youth camps. July 9-13.

Pray for a team of 12 from **FBC, Clinton**, traveling to Mexico to minister through evangelism. June 25-July 3.

Pray for a team of 15 from **Cleary BC, Florence**, as they travel to Botswana to minister through evangelism. July 2-11.

Pray for a team of three from **Good Hope BC, Purvis**, as they travel to Belize to minister through youth camps. July 9-13.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service, internationally.

State Literacy Missions Conference

July 14-16, 2011
Crossgates Baptist Church, Brandon

With Special Guest: Kendale Moore
For more information see
www.mbc.org/mission_strategy/wmu/literacy
or call 601-292-3317

Basic Workshops in:

- Adult Reading & Writing
- English as a Second Language
- Bible Storytelling

Seminars on:

- Updates
- Cultures
- Religions



TRANSFORMATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL REGIONAL TRAINING

Time at each location: 9:00 a.m. - noon

July 9, 2011
FBC, Cleveland
Cleveland, Miss.

July 23, 2011
FBC, Senatobia
Senatobia, Miss.

August 6, 2011
FBC, McComb
McComb, Miss.

August 13, 2011
Country Woods
Byram, Miss.

August 27, 2011
FBC, Kosciusko
Kosciusko, Miss.

September 17, 2011
FBC, Picayune
Picayune, Miss.

Age Group Conferences for Preschool - Adult

"Telling the Story of Jesus Through Sunday School"

"The Transformational Sunday School Class"

"Principles to Tell the Story of Jesus"

"How to Grow a Transformational Sunday School"

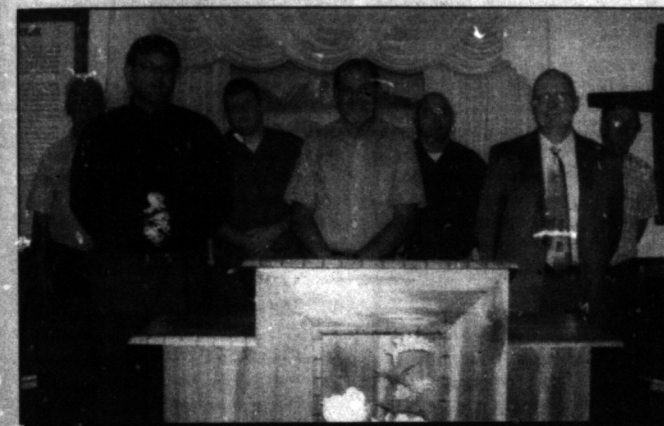
For more information contact
Kiely Young at kyoung@mbcb.org
or Lee Ann Boykin at lboykin@mbcb.org
or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or 601-292-3292

June 24 - July 14, 2011

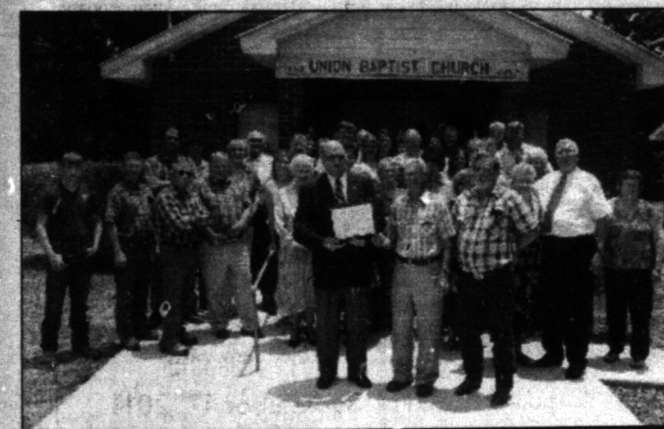
JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Goodwater Church, Enterprise



2. First Church, Gattman



5. Redtop Union Church, Scott Association



6. Spring Hill Church, Waterford

1. The children's choir of **Goodwater Church, Enterprise**, presented the musical program *Down by the Creek Bank* May 15. Shown are the participants.

2. **First Church, Gattman**, held a Baptist Men's Day June 5; Thomas Conwill, front right, speaker. Shown are the participants.

3. **The Children in Action of Society Hill Church, Oakvale**, held a walk-a-thon, raising \$309.75 for disaster relief. Participants were Bradley and Alexander Williamson, Brandon and Kara Waldon, John Robbins, Joseph Haselvander, and Tessa Waldon.

4. **Hamburg Church, Roxie**, will host the "Amie River Boys" bluegrass group June 26, 6 p.m., followed by a covered dish meal.

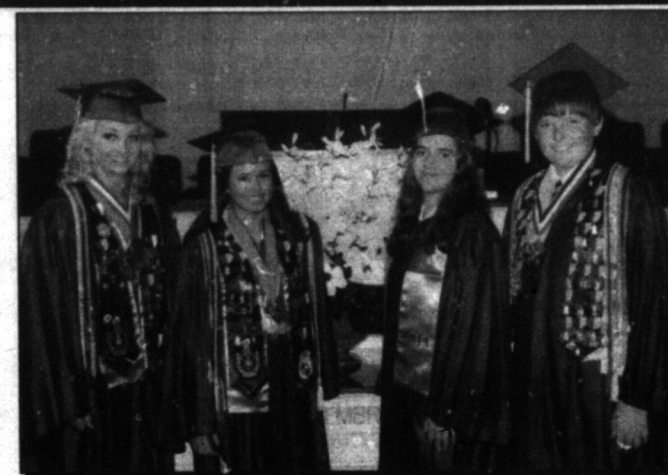
5. **Redtop Union Church, Scott Association**, celebrated their 150th anniversary June 12. The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission presented the church with a plaque and appropriate letter. Shown, holding the plaque is Wayne Rushing with Scott Bassett and Carl Bassett.

6. **Spring Hill Church, Waterford**, recently held a note burning. Shown are the deacons and pastor John Parker.

7. **First Church, Soso**, honored their graduates May 22. Shown are Hollie Jefcoat, Kaily Simpson, Brittany Harris, and Drew Caves.

8. The children of **Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto**, held an Easter party at the church. Hal Hatten, pastor. Shown are the participants.

9. **Sylvarena Church, Wesson**, held a ceremony May 15 for its college graduates. Shown are Diane Stokes, David Bufkin, and Devin Brown.



7. First Church, Soso



8. Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto



9. Sylvarena Church, Wesson

Visit us online at www.mbc.org to learn more about Mississippi Baptist opportunities.

Mississippi Baptist State Church Softball Tournaments

Tournament	SS Enrollment	Dates	Cost	Final Deadline
Men Class A	1-300	July 29-30	\$200	July 1
Men Class AA	301-700	July 29-30	\$200	July 1
Men Class AAA	701 and up	July 15-16	\$200	July 1

All Tournaments will be held in Pearl, MS at the Center City Complex.

For more information or to download a registration form go to www.msbaaptistrecreation.com or call 601.898.4969.

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1. Park Haven Church, Laurel

1. The WMU ladies of Park Haven Church, Laurel, held fundraisers to place a stained glass window in the baptistry. Shown are the men and women who helped with the project.
2. Pleasant Hill Church, Tippah County, held a baby dedication May 29. Shown are babies Henry Goodma, Kooper Wilbanks, Leila Jewel Seawright and their families.



2. Pleasant Hill Church, Tippah County

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



2. Hickory Grove, Sumrall



5. Hathorn Church, Jeff Davis County



3. First Church, Quitman



6. Hebron Church, Smithdale

1. Sand Hill Church, West: June 26 - 30; 6 - 8 p.m.; nursery - adults.
2. Hickory Grove Church, Sumrall: June 5 - 9; average attendance, 38. Shown are the participants.
3. First Church, Quitman: The VBS participants took up \$1669.32, with the receipts going to missionaries in Honduras to be used to feed a family of four for nearly 76 weeks, or a family of five for over 60 weeks. Shown are the participants.
4. North Winona Church, Winona: June 6 - 10. Shown are the participants.
5. Hathorn Church, Jeff Davis County: Average attendance of 70; over \$1200 received for the Center for Pregnancy Choices of Lawrence County; Wanda Powell, director; Wade Barnes, pastor.
6. Hebron Church, Smithdale: June 6 - 8; attendance, 38. Shown are the participants.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

1. Friendship Church, McComb: Revival, July 10 - 12; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon. - Tue., revival choir, 6:30 p.m.; services, 7 p.m.; David Millican, speaker; Ed May, music.
2. Pilgrim's Rest Church, Ethel: Homecoming and revival, June 25 - 28; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; services, 11 a.m. followed by fellowship lunch; Ralph Hunt, speaker; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Gene Richardson, speaker.
3. Calvary Church, Greenwood: Homecoming, June 26; worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Jimmie Wood, speaker; Beverly Smith, music; Wayne Kimbrough, pastor.
4. North Long Beach Church, Long Beach: Homecoming and revival, June 26 - 29; Sun., 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; John Yates, speaker; Charles Bonner, pastor.



BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Why Be Generous?

Luke 19:1-10; 2 Corinthians 8:3-4; 1 John 3:16-18

By Beth Bowman

Michael Bloomberg, current mayor of New York City, is number eight on the list of top fourteen generous people on the planet. His estimated total donated is 1.5 billion dollars. What is so surprising is not that Bloomberg has given so much away, but what his plans are for after he retires. He has said that after he retires he will focus full-time on giving away the rest of his \$16 billion fortune. Why is Mayor Bloomberg so generous? What is the motivation behind his giving?

Motivated by Grace
Luke 19:1-10, Zaccheus had

heard about this teacher and likely he wanted to see what all the fuss was about. I can't imagine his amazement when Jesus stopped by the place where he was and wanted to go home with him. Can you imagine the scramble down the tree? Although the scripture doesn't tell us the exact interaction between Jesus and Zaccheus, we do see the response of Zaccheus afterward in verse 9, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give-back four times as much." (NASV) The love and grace of Jesus extended to sinners always



Bowman

results in a response.

Motivated by Need
1 John 3:16-18.

These verses remind me that it is impossible to have resources, see a brother in need, and not meet that need, plain and simple. We can justify our greed and explain away our selfishness but the scripture reminder is clear at the end of verse 17, "How does the love of God abide in him?"

Motivated by Vision

The Macedonian church wanted to be a part of Paul's ministry. Paul had shared about his other journeys and how God had been using him. This church gave beyond their ability. They trusted in what God was doing and the

ministry of Paul. They gave to a vision that some of them would not be able to see fulfilled.

Today I had a ministry opportunity to serve a young inmate. I had met Anthony while serving as a US-2 missionary in South Carolina. His uncle called to see if I could check on Anthony, who had been sent to Jackson in an early release program. My husband couldn't go with me so I thought about who in my church would be willing to give up a morning of their time. Several names came to mind but I felt the Holy Spirit impress me to call Buddy Pharis. As I talked with Buddy and began to explain the situation, he answered yes before I could finish. The next morning at 7:30 am, I met Buddy and Anthony at Waffle House. Over waffles and coffee,

Buddy gently encouraged this young believer toward the strength of Christ. As Anthony stepped out of the restaurant for a minute, I quickly thanked Buddy for coming to meet Anthony with me. He quickly replied, "I love this." I saw generosity wrapped up in a 6'3" bald headed man who doesn't mind giving, sharing, encouraging and supporting, all for his Father in heaven. Thanks, Buddy, for reminding us all that we are compelled to give, knowing how much Jesus has done for us. This kind of giving can't be matched by the giving of any philanthropist, because its motivation is supernatural and the rewards are eternal.

Bowman is Minister of Connection at First Church, Brandon, and a speaker for women's events.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Rise Above the Tide

Jeremiah 15:10-11, 15-21

By Harold Simmons

On a mission trip to Honduras, there was a young preacher with the group from Grenada. He had served as our youth pastor a couple of years before the trip. We were walking down the dusty road going from house to house visiting with the people of the village. The young preacher poured out his heart to me as we walked. He believed the Lord had called him to the ministry but he was overwhelmed with the thought and it left doubt in his mind. "I'm not sure this is what the Lord wants me to do and yet I feel He has called me." The tide of decision was rolling over him. We stopped in the road and prayed. After the prayer I assured him the Lord

would show him exactly what He wanted him to do. That night, it was his time to preach. Thirty-five people moved forward in that tent during the invitation to accept Christ as their Savior and Lord. After the service that young preacher's face was radiant and I know God had answered our prayer. Today that young man is completing his doctoral work in evangelism. God does help us rise above the tide when we go to Him with our concerns and questions.

God Cares

(Jeremiah 15:10-11)

At this point in his ministry, Jeremiah was just about overwhelmed. Obviously, he was



Simmons

down-hearted about how things had gone. He said the equivalent of: "I wish I had never been born."

Some Biblical scholars believe this was a way of saying that Jeremiah had wished that God had never chosen him to be His prophet.

Emotionally, Jeremiah was down. He had not done any harm to anybody but it seemed everybody hated him. That is an awful feeling to think that all the people did not like him. They shunned him and thought him a traitor because he had told them that their homeland was about to be destroyed if they did not change. This was not Jeremiah's thought but God's message to the people.

In the midst of this depression, God speaks to Jeremiah yet again. This time it was to assure the prophet. God wanted Jeremiah to have no doubt

about His caring for Jeremiah even in adversity.

God speaks to us today and wants us to know: "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5b NIV). God cares about us no matter the circumstance.

The Lord Knows

(Jeremiah 15:15-18)

The words of an old song "Nobody knows the troubles I've seen" seem to reflect Jeremiah's feelings. Yet, he says: "you know, Lord." The idea is that Jeremiah is quite alone in his suffering but at the same time he positively declares that the Lord is aware of him and his circumstances. God has known Jeremiah since before his birth. God had told him that. Therefore Jeremiah could know that God fully understood him. He asked God to remember him - "take note of me" (Jeremiah 15:15 HCSB). The word "remember" could also be translated as "mark." In the

old west, cattle and horses were marked/branded for recognition later. When round-ups were made, several ranches worked together. A rancher could go into a herd of cattle or horses and say with certainty, "That is my animal." Jeremiah asked God to brand him as belonging to God. With ownership comes the responsibility to care for the property.

In addition to being outwardly marked, Jeremiah said that he had eaten the Lord's word. This sounds very much like what John wrote in the book of Revelation as he ate the little book or scroll. Ingesting the word of the Lord would mean that the words would be digested and become a nourishment to every part of him. The word of God would be a part of every cell of Jeremiah.

Simmons is currently interim pastor at Cascilla Church, Cascilla

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attach-

ments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital

photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with

tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Co-Lin Baptist Student Union takes big step forward

WESSON, Ms. (Special) — The Baptist Student Union (BSU) program at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson will soon occupy a major expansion of the current BSU center that will almost double the square footage of the facility.

Co-Lin BSU Director Bruce Brady Jr. said the expansion to the existing building is the culmination of a five-year campaign to raise the funds for what he terms "a much needed larger worship space."

"These funds were donated by local individuals as well as from churches from Copiah, Lincoln, Lawrence, Simpson, and Franklin counties (the service area for the community college)," Brady said. "The current expansion project will create an additional 2,500 square feet of worship space, which will nearly double the total square footage of the building."

The total cost of the expansion is \$160,000.00, with an additional \$20,000.00 for future renovations to the existing building. "We still need to raise approximately \$35,000.00 to have the project paid in full," Brady said.

A groundbreaking ceremony (upper right photo) was held on April 15. On hand were (from left) Jane Hulon, vice-president of Copiah-Lincoln Community College; Wiley Reid, chairman of the Co-Lin BSU Support Team; Bruce Brady Jr., Co-Lin BSU director; Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB); and Weaver McCracken, director of the MBCB Collegiate Ministries Department.



Work on the exterior of the addition (bottom photo) is now nearly complete.

"I am so thankful for the great work that is being done all across our state, in our major colleges as well as our community colleges, in Baptist student work. Our facilities on campus after campus provide a hub for spiritual opportunities for thousands of young people," Futral said. "Those facilities are only exceeded by the wonderful men and women God has put in places of opportunity and responsibility, to touch the lives of these students at this critical phase of their development."

"It was such a blessing to be a part of the groundbreaking for the expansion of Copiah-Lincoln Community

College and to have watched through the years as Bruce Brady has, with genuine passion, sought to reach students for Christ and then to send them out to reach others."

With the student population at Mississippi's community colleges at an all-time high across the state, BSU programs on campuses like Co-Lin are experiencing significant growth.

The Co-Lin BSU was established in 1936, with the first building completed in 1976 for a cost of \$40,000, under the leadership of Roy Smith who was director at the time.

For more information on the Co-Lin BSU, contact Brady at P.O. Box 469, Wesson, MS 39191. Telephone: (601) 643-2630. E-mail: brobruce@colinbsu.org.

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How the MABTS D.Min. helped
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The Doctor of Ministry program at MABTS strategically prepared me to serve on the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff and as a senior pastor of a growing church. The combination of reading, writing, lecture, and class participation served to deepen my understanding and sharpen my skills in all the core areas of ministry.

